HOLT'S TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

Some Early History of the Court **Houses of Holt County.**

The Sentinel in the early part of even hand. Fine points of law were 1912 immediately prepared a history often ignored, but those who presided knew every man in the county, and houses of Holt county, but which owling to various causes, we never published, but now we feel it a most opportune time to produce this part and feature of the history of Holt county written at a time when there was no written at a time when there was no control of the points of law were the interesting the product of the product of the product of the points of law were published, but now we feel it a most opportune time to produce this part and the broad principles of natural equity produced the points of law were the points of written at a time when there was no county seat campaign on, and as all the historical matter produced by the Sentinel was written absolutely free from bias, and confined strictly to

Our illustration of our handsome and modern court house was taken years before the present campaign was on, and if our renders care to make comparsions they will find it equal in comparsions they will find it equal in every way if not superior in some re-spects to those of Clay, Clinton, Cald-well, Platte, Atchison, Lewis and many other counties. Holt county's court house and properties could not possibly be replaced to day for less than ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS, for it is well known that building materials. well known that building materials and labor have adayanced from 200 to 400 per eent, and the cost of transpor-tation fully 100 per cent.

Mound City paid \$3.98 per cubic yard to pave Nebraska street, in concrete, while Oregon paid \$1.70; Consolidated District No.1, supposed they could have their High school built for \$20,000, but the lowest box was \$38,000 and hence the work is stopped until an increase is voted. increase is voted.

The First Court House,

Notwithstanding the fact that a large number of the people in every county have very little practical experience in the courts, and although they have the legal capacity to sue and be sued, never improve their opportunities, and never appear in court unless it be on compulsion, as witarbiter in the case of individual or arbiter in the case of individual or arbiter in the case of individual or arbiter in the case of individual or was occupied by Bowen & Management of the distinguised above and apart from all then W. H. Sterret, then by the Oregon than only the proceedings of balding the control of the second story of this beilding to the second story of this beilding to the second story of this beilding. and every other institution of the land, and not only the proceedings of the court, but the place of holding court is a matter of interest to the average reader. Not only so, but in many counties the court house was the first and usually the only public building in the county. These early day court houses were not very elaborate buildings, to be sure, but they are enshrined in memories that the present can never know. Their uses were general rather than special, and so constantly were they in use day and night when court was in session when it was not in session, for and when it was not in session, for judical, educational, religous, that the doors of those old time court houses, like the gates of gospel peace, stood open day and night, and the small amount invested in those old hewed logs returned a much better rate of interest on the investment than do the stately piles of brick, granite and markle, which have taken their and marble, which have taken their

The memorable court house of early The memorable court house of early time, was a house adapted to a variety of uses, and had a career of great usefulness, school was taught, the gospel preached and justice dispensed within its old substantial walls. Then it served frequently as a resting place for many travelers, and indeed its doors swung on easy hinges.

But not only as a court room was the old building used. If the old settlers are to believe, this rude structure often rang on the pioneer settler with a more stirring eloquence than enlivens the pulpits of the present.

An this old quaint building the In this old quaint building the earliest ministers have officiated, and if those old walls could have spoken, they could have told many a strange tale of ploneer religion, that is now lost forever. To that old court house ministers came of different faiths, smart they could have told many a strange tale of piencer religion, that is now lost forever. To that old court house minister to expound the simple truth of a sublime and beautiful religion, and imparts and point out for comparison the thermy path of duty, and the primrose path of siliance. Often have those old walls given back the cehos of those who sang the songs of fion, and many an erring wanderer has had his heart moved to repentance thereby, more strongly than ever, by the strains of homely elequence, from those early ministers: Greenberry B. Thorpe, who caganized the first religions organization of the county, the "Hardshell Baptists in 1841. He often preached in the organized the first religions organization of the county and this section of the sectio

and had a fine suit of "jeans" made for him.

W. G. Caples, also of the M. E. church preached in this building in 1843-44. He was a great wit, but an earnest, zealous man. Rev. Alex Spencer, of the same church delivered aermons in the old orginal court house in 1844-45; as also Jacob Bird. The latter of these instituted the camp meetings in the county in 1857. He organized the M. E. class in Hickory township in 1845-46.

With the coming of Monday morning the old building changed its character, and men came there seeking men. The scales were held with an it seeems was kept busy returning the scales were held with an it seeems was kept busy returning the seems was kept busy returning the seems was kept busy returning the scales were held with an it seeems was kept busy returning the seems was kept busy returning it seeems was kept busy returning it seeems was kept busy returning it.

At the December term, 1841, of th At the December term, 1841, of the Holt couty court, held at the home of Gilbert Ray, two and a hair miles east of Orogon, and composed of Judges Harrison G. Noland, James Crowley and James Kimsey, made the following and James Kimsey, made the following order:

"Ordered that a court house be built in the town of Oregon, in Holt county, of the following description and dimensions: a frame structue 20 x 26 Atchison, Young and Leonard served feet, two stories high; to be set in a nock wall, 18 inches thick and 30 inches high; the first story nine feet high in the clear recent story of the clear story of the

country, and this coutractor was under the necessity of asking an extension of time to complete the building, which was granted by the court, and on the 3d day of October, 1842, R. M. Barkhurst, superintensient of construction reported the contract completed, and the court ordered that building be reunless it be on compulsion, as with the court ordered that building be renecess or juros, yet as the one great
conservator of peace and as the final
conservator of peace and as the f

In the second story of this building in May, 1852, the order of Old Fellows organized their lodge, and James Fosorganized their lodge, and James Fos-ter, then a prominent attorney here, was chosen as the lodge's first presid-ing officer, and F. S. Rostock, Sr., and J. G. Grimm were the first initiates. On August 15th, 1852, the first Mason-ic lodge was organized in this building, and J. W. Modice was its first master, and F. S. Rostock, Sr., and H. M. Upton and E. R. Brown were the first to be initiated. Carroll, the contractor, fell from a

Carroll, the contractor, fell from a stage coach near Richville, September 15, 1860, and died from his injuries.

The contract provided that the build-

Griffiths.

507 Felix Street ST. JOSEPH, MO.

bills for the filegal selling of House bills for the liferal selling of Hquor, peddling without a license; sealing liquor to Indians; gambling, and various other misdemeanors, just as the docket of today is largely made up.

At this first term of court in the first court house of the county, Prince L. Hudgins, Willard P. Hall, John M. Young and L. D. Bird were the first to se licensed to practice before the court.

It was at this time that James McAvoy was acquitted of the charge of perjury by a jury, and was the first perjury case heard.

Playing cards on Sunday it seems, was a common offense, for at eucliterm for several years, the grand jury

vin Morrow innocently passed some counterfeit monty. They were as

high; the first story nine feet high in the clear; second story to be seven feet in the clear; the floors to be oak, that the grand jury returned a true one inch thick, well seasoned; suitable windows, doors, etc."

The building was to be completed by June 19, 1842, and to be built on lot 5, block 7, in the town of Oregon, fronting 20 feet on Nodaway street and 26 feet on Washington street. This property is now occupied by the Petree-Proud buildings, Post office; ed. Doniphan afterward attained ing.

ing.

The sum of \$685 v.r. appreciated for the construction of the building, and the contract was let to Jesse Carroll. These appliances for facilitating labor in those days were few, and anything but readily attainable in this primitive condition of things in the country, and this coutractor was under the necessity, and this coutractor was under the necessity, and this coutractor was under the necessity of the ond degree murder assessing punish ment at three years in the peni tentiary, Col. Doniphan at once, file his motion for a new trail which wa granted by the circuit judge, Hender son Young, who qualified February 26, 1842. Doniphan then induced his client to plead guilty to manslaughter, and he was given six months in jail, and a fine of \$500. Later the jail seatence was remitted on account of the onsanitary condition, and only the fine tood against the accussed which wa

The first damage suit was tried this original court house, and it was in the docket, "The Steamer Bowling Green vs. William Templeton and Jthe August, 1843, term. The steamer, Bowling Green, at that time was one of the most fashionable and popular besides being the popular means of In 1913 the circuit was changed and travel by a very aristocratic and cvs- Holt taken from the fourth and added clusive set of slave traders of St. to the fifth, composed of Holt An-Louis and New Orleans, furnished drew, Platte, Clinton and DeKalb.

Among the practictioners at the bar in those days were such men as Peter H. Burnett, Benjamin Hayes, Sol L. Lonard, James Baldwin, Einas P. of Piatte county, October 5, 1852. He. Leonard, James Baldwin, Einas P. of course, had a grand jury, and they West, James Foster, John C. Morris, Robert Wilson, Henry M. Vories, Prince L. Hudgins, Edwin Toole, San fenses and horse racing. Wheaton, James Craig, Frank Warmcastle, W. P. Hall, Jas. B. Gardenhire, Jas. S. Thomas, Frederick Greenough, lie meetings, so was this second court Christopher P. Brown, John W. Keliey, Geo. W. Crow, Alex. W. Doniphan, Ben Loan, Elijah Norton, Wm. M. Paxton.

The Second Court House.

The Second Court House. Before the lapse of the first decade in the county's history, its progress and growing importance seemed to warrant the erection of a temple of justice more in harmony with its advancing fortunes, and in October, 1850, a second court house was determined upon. Accordingly on the first day of the November term, 1850, of the coun-

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term in this structure, which was held dead.

October 20, 1851. Lawrence Archer At the time of the building of the was the circuit attorney; W. D. Beeler, second court house there was no sheriff, and John Collins was the circuit attorney; and John Collins was the circuit attorney; which is the control of the building of the was the circuit attorney; which is the country and c

seph Holt," the latter being a brother was elected circuit judge, the district was still known as the 12th, and was of David Rice Holt, for whom Holt county was named. Dillatory tactics were used in those days as now, and drew and Nodaway. It remained so the case finally came on for trial at until 1872 when it was changed to the 4th circuit, and composed of Holt, At-chison, Andrew and Nodaway. In 1901, Andrew was taken from the cir-

The contract provided that the building be completed for the June, 1842 term, but this was not done and the losers pay a poker slebt.

Among the practiculoners at the bar in those days were such men as Peter Remington, clerk of the circuit court, Benjamin Hayes, Sol L.

H. Burnett, Benjamin Hayes, Sol L.

Leonard, James Raldwin, Elias P. of course, had a grand into a grand a grand

lic meetings, so was this second court house, and it was in this court house, that the Republican party of Holt county effected its organization, which was on September 28, 1860, and the meeting was addressed by a Dr. Landon, who was the Republican the meeting was addressed by a Dr. Landon, who was the Republican sum of \$8,500. Subsequently a furthelector for this district, and James F. cr sem of \$1,100 was appropriated to properly complete the structure. The Republican paper of St. Joseph. At that time there were very few work of raising the old building was at that time there were very few commenced early in June of that year, and reconstruction was begun under the superintendency of Levi Zook. On outspoken were the late Clarke Irvine and Stephen Blanchard. Of the original 80 voters at this precinct vot-

Governors: Willard P. Hall 1864
Silas Woodson 1872
Albert P. Moorchouse 1888
Secretary of State:
Mordecia Oliver 1861
Francis Rodman 1864
Supreme Judges:
Henry M. Vories 1872
Philemon Bliss 1868
Elijah Norton 1876
Attorney-Generals:
Jas. B. Gardenhire 1852
Edwin C. Crow 1896
Kansas City Court of Appeals: W.

P. Hall, W. W. Ramsay, Jas. M. John-

At our special Friday and Saturday sale we will sell you four pounds of THAT COFFEE for 95c. You know what THAT stands for. See our alfalfa seed at \$19.90. Our nice 924 pure fectioned Timothy at \$5.90. Sweet Clover at \$19.50. That Flour Friday and Saturday at 10c per 100-pounds less. Best laundry soap on the market 11 bars 75c. Wear-U-Well Shoes are made for wear as well as for look. Your car needs our Oil. Bring your vinegar jug. 100 loaves of bread each lay to feed our family, and our family and our family to feed our family, and our family to feed our family and our family fami

chas. F. Boober, Andrew ... 1907-15.

Chas. F. Boober, Andrew ... 1907-15.

Josk. Toole served as the first governor of Montana, and H. Burnett was Califeria's first governor of Montana, and H. Burnett was Califeria's first governor.

Among those who came to the local bar as practictioners in the second court house were: the late T. C. Dungan, John W. Stokes, Tom Parrish, James Limbird, Henry Shutts, L. R. Knowles, C. W. Thomas, S. F. O'Fallon, M. A. Durf, H. T. Alkire, Aibert Jamison. Stokes, Parrish, Shutts, Knowles, Irvine, Zook, E. VanBuskirk, Henry S. Kelley and Jamison are now dead.

october 20, 1861. Lawrence Archer was the circuit attorney; W. D. Beeler, second court house there was no sheriff, and John Collins was the circuit clerk.

The first grand jury impaneled in this court house was composed of R. S. H. B. Cundiff established the Holt H. Russell, John S. Williams, John H. County News here, under date of Utt, Abraham Sharp, Peter Stephenson, Cornelius Risk, Sam Hall, Henry Hunaker, James Kennedy, James Curleit, S. Rostock, P. F. Lundy, James Curleit, S. Parnelia Hill; a partition suit, tis, F. S. Rostock, P. F. Lundy, James Curleit, S. Parnelia Hill; a partition suit, tis, F. S. Rostock, P. F. Lundy, James Curleit, S. Parnelia Hill; a partition suit, tis, F. S. Rostock, P. F. Lundy, James Curleit, S. Parnelia Hill; a partition suit, tis, F. S. Rostock, P. F. Lundy, James Curleit, et al. Was chosen foreman, and they return-

Thomas H. Parrish, Oct. 26, 1897.

Thomas H. Parrish, Oct. 26, 1897
Daniel Zook, June 8, 1900.
James Foster, May 13, 1895.
Clark Irvine, Sept. 12, 1907.
Henry Shutts, Dec. 9, 1902.
John W. Stokes, Sept. 17, 1913.
Ellzy VanBuskirk, Aug. 5, 1895.
L. R. Knowles, May 30, 1897.
Lee Callow, April 29, 1908.
T. C. Dungan, Jan. 3, 1916.
The Third Court House.

The Third Court House.

Early in the summer of 1881, it was determined by the county court, then composed of T. W. McCoy, judge-at-large, and Judges J. R. Bradford and Daniel Huiatt, to erect a new court house, or rather to remodel the eld structure, erected in the '50's, which was no discreditable monument of the enterprise and progressive spirit of the day and generation, in which it

was built

court, and immediately occupied. With the exception of the foundation and a small portion of the brick wall of the first story, the building was entirely new, and no vestige of the second building was recognizable.

This third structure suggested the dea of a Greek cross, so equibrachial was its ground plan.

was its ground plan.

The main building was 45 feet square. In the center of the north front, the area of the base of the tower, which rises to an altitude of about 75 feet to its summit, was 15 feet square. Near the middle of the east, also of the west side of the building was a projection 15x22 feet, extending to and taking in the second and mansari stories, in the center of the south side, which until the summer of 1911 was the rear of the building, was another extension 15x9 feet. Approaching the building by the front, entrance, the 15x15 foot vestibale, which constituted the ground floor of the tower, and paved in stone, revealed the tower, and paved in stone, revealed a double stairway leading on either hand to the second and third stories. A ten-foot hallway ran through the building from north to south. Up to building from north to south. Op to 1912 the northeast room was occupied by the county clerk, county court and treasurer; the southeast room by the collector; the northwest room by the circuit clerk and recorder, and the southwest room by the probate court.

The second story, main room, used as the circuit court room was 45x45 feet, with 14.5 ceiling. On the east and west side, opening from the court room were two rooms used for jury purposes, the sheriff and prosecuting

The third or mansard story, from the nature of its design, was some-what smaller than the area of the lower floors, and its dimensions were 39x39, but is now larger by reason of the extension built in the summer of

Walkup and John Sterrett. Russell was chosen foreman, and they returned 28 true bills, principally for gamble of 28 true bills, principally for gambling, "hoss" racing and unlawfully seining liquor. The court in most court died and served but one term seining liquor. The court in most cases waid "\$10.00 and costs" in gambling cases where the parties pleaded guilty—M was popular pastime in those days, and most everybody had a fondness for a little quiet game of draw poker.

At this term Levi Doige was granted permission to build a mill-dam on his land in Squaw Creew, on 23, 62, 39.

There were two regular terms of court field at this time, April and October, 1852, term there were 13 pleas of guilt to gambling and five for racing on the highways. At the August, 1852, term there were 13 pleas of guilt to gambling and the second temple of justice were used to be court field at this time, April and October, 1843, given 12 years, and five for racing on the highways. At the August, 1852, term there were 13 pleas of guilt to gambling and the second temple of justice were used to be court field at this time, April and October, 1850, term there were 13 pleas of guilt to gambling and the large of the court field at this time, April and October, 1850, term there were 13 pleas of guilt to gambling and the second temple of justice were: William Dorgherty by—Hennian and five for racing on the highways. At the August, 1852, term there were 13 pleas of guilt to gambling and the leaves of the warrants, which was glong on toward completion, and atted as the clerk, at the time of the extension built in the summer of low-cloped form the citizens of Mound City, which led up or the filing of an injunction against the payment of the warrants, which was filed by Jacob Book and others in this second temple of justice were: William Dorgherty by—Hennia and five for racing on the highways. At the August, 1852, term, the injunction of the court is the filing of an injunction against the warrants and the result of the second temple of justic

went without their money, and Con-tractor Bennett lost his. But relief in a measure finally came to the holders of these warrants. At the 1887 session of the legislature, a relief bill was passed, which authorized the pay-ment of these warrants without inter-est, and the holders finally obtained the face value of their warrants.

Contractor Bennett was so depressed by his financial embarrassments
that he died June 25, 1883, three years
prior to the passage of the relief act
Levi Zook, who superintended the construction of the building, died April 2,
1895. Judge Bradford, of the county court making the order for the erec-tion of the building, died December 20, 1901. Judge Huiatt died in 1916. Kelley, who sustained the injunction, died in St. Joseph, February 11, 1911. He retired from the bench in 1887.

The circuit judges who followed Judge Kelley in presiding in this third court house were: Judges Cyrus A.

court house were: Judges Cyrus A,
Anthony, Gallatin Craig, W. C. Ellison and Alonzo D. Burnes.
L. R. Knowles was the county attorney at the time of this improvement,
and he was succeeded by S. F. O'Fallon, R. I. Rea, Henry Shutts, John
Kennish, W. E. Stabbs, Ivan Blair,
Frank Petree, Geo. C. Price, H. T.
Alkire and A. M. Tibbels.
Many of those older attorneys mentioned before in these articles also

tioned before in these articles also practiced in this third structure, and continued until they removed or died. Among the younger set who practiced in this third building were: L. R. Knowles, Leigh H. Irvine, S. F. O'Fal-lon, H. T. Alkire, Ed L. Hart, John Kennish, Alex VanBuskirk, E. J. Kelknowies, Leigh H. Irvine, S. F. O'Fallon, H. T. Alkire, Ed L. Hart, John Kennish, Alex VanBuskirk, E. J. Kellogg G. W. Murphy, James Stokes, Frank and A. W. Petree, Don Hunt, W. H. and E. E. Richards, W. E. Stubbs, A. M. Tibbels, Robert L. Minton, H. B. Williams, R. B. Bridgeman, Harry M. Dungan, J. B. Dearmont, I. L. Blair, D. W. Porter, G. W. Murphy, Geo. C. Price, Lee Callow, F. M. Wilson, B. R. Martin, A. R. Coburn. Of this younger set of attorneys, Messrs. Knowles, Murphy and Callow are now dead; Blair is practicing in Seattle, Wash.; Leigh Irvine is in literary work in California, and his brother, L. C., is in Mobile, Ala., but not in the law practice. Francis M. Wilson is now the United States district attorney for the western district of Missouri. John Kennish is a member of the State Utility Commission; he also served as a member of the supreme court and assistant attorney general. Hart has quit the law, and is in business in St. Joseph. Don Hunt is in Washington, D. C., as private secretary to Senator Reed, and in May, 1914, he was admitted to practice in the United States supreme court.

There are but two of our local barnow practicing who began their law practice in the second court house.—S. F. O'Fallon and H. T. Alkire. John W. Stokes, now dead, began his practice in the second court house were those of David Miller for the killing of Samuel Crow, March 25, 1899. Win. Fields killed John Cook, Jan. 2, 1900. John Freeman by Ambrose Grounds, April, 1899. Lee Harriman by G. W. Moulden, July, 1894. Milford Hammon by Ira Chuning, March 1896. John Patterson by Jan. B. Inks, May, 1835. Matt Spellman by Sam Pollock, July, 1820. October Chung by

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